Vol. IX. Numb. 29.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reflections on the Seditious Practices of the Faction. The Uſe made of 'em by the French *Court in the* Paris Gazette; *and the Incouragement given by them to the Common Enemy. On a* Reader, *who animated the Mob. On the Condemnation of* Damare, *the Waterman. On that call'd,* The Addreſs of the County of *Oxford. Inſtances of the Blaſphemy and Irreligion of the Leaders of the Faction. A Letter from* Barnſtaple, *that a Magiſtrate there refuſes a Licence for Ale and Coffee to a Poor Widow if ſhe takes in the* Obſervator.

From Saturday, April 22, to Wednesday, April 26. 1710.

Countrym. I thought we had done with the *Sacheverelites*, Mr. *Obſervator*, and ſhould have come to ſome more agreeable Subjects, now that the Campaign is open'd with ſo much Glory and Succeſs; but it would ſeem the Faction is reſolved to fight Her Majeſty and our Happy Conſtitution at Home, that the Common Enemy may be encouraged to make Head againſt her Victorious Forces Abroad.

Obſ. I don't wonder at it, *Roger*; every Thing muſt act according to its Nature. The Faction is animated by the ſame Spirit with our Common Enemy; no Body who looks upon the *Paris Gazette* can doubt this; the Seditious Practices of the Pretender's Churchmen are the beſt Entertainments which the *French* Court have to put in their State News, to keep up the Sinking Spirits of their Slaviſh Subjects: 'Tis the leaſt Complement they can beſtow upon the Court of St. *Germaus*, whom, in all probability, they muſt for ever abandon in a little Time, to ſtuff their *Gazettes* with the Traiterous Advices ſent them from hence, how much the Pretender's Friends are encourag'd in ſuch and ſuch Places, and what Inſults the Friends of our Conſtitution, and particularly the Managers of the Houſe of Commons againſt Dr. *Sacheverell*, have met with. They are careful to take Notice of the carrying on ſuch Addreſſes as ſuite their Taſte; but they ſay nothing of ſuch Seditious Addreſſes as have been rejected with Contempt when offer'd to be ſign'd; they gladly publiſh any Favours ſhew'd to the Managers for *Sacheverell* by the Faction, but take no Notice of Honours done by Corporations or Counties to the Managers of the Honourable Houſe of Commons. However, if the *French* Secretary of State and his Amanuenſis, the *Paris Gazetteer*, would be thoroughly grateful to their Friends, they ſhould not omit the Conſiderable Service ſaid to be done by the Clerk of a certain Knight in animating and directing the Mob, who rebelled againſt the Government: nor ſhould they forget the Reader of a certain Pariſh not far from *London*, who laid aſide his Canonical Habit that he might appear the more ſafely among the Rabble, and animate them to pull down all the Meeting-houſes. They ought by their Woollers, or ſome other Truſty Friends, to ſend him over a Tun of *Burgundy* or *Champáign* to drink, for his Care to have the Mob ſupplied with Liquor for their good Service in pulling down the Temples of our *Britiſh* Hugenots: Nay, they ought to recommend him to ſome of the Titular Popiſh Biſhops among us to make him a Dignitary of the Church of *Rome*, that he may be qualify'd to be one of the Pretender's Chaplains when he comes over.

Countrym. You are in the Right, Maſter, but why ſo much in Favour of this High flying Clergyman, and not one Word of Poor *Damare*, the Waterman, who ſo exactly follow'd his ſaid Ghoſtly Father's Conduct, and after he had been one of the Ringleaders in pulling down and burning Mr. *Burgeſs*'s Meeting-houſe, led the Mob on to pull down others, in order to fulfil the Hopes of his Spiritual Guide, *That all the Meeting-houſes in* London *ſhould be pulled down that Night.* Certainly this Poor Wretch deſerves ſome Conſideration from the Courts of *Verſailles* and St. *Germains*, ſince he is condemn'd to die a Martyr for their Cauſe.

Obſ. You need not doubt, *Roger*, but the Faction will take Care of that; they have Nonjurants and High-Church Prieſts at Hand to abſolve him, and to ſend him from the Gallows to Heaven, without calling at Purgatory by the Way, as they did Sir *William Perkins* and Sir *John Friend*, who died in like Manner for Ploting an Aſſaſſination and Invaſion, according to the True Meaning of their Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience and Non-reſiſtance. They will certainly provide for his Widow and Children, if the Government's Clemency don't prevent Execution, out of the Money ſent over to raiſe the late Rebellion, recommend them for a Penſion to the abovemention'd Courts, and put him in the Calendar with St. *Garnet* and St. *Faux*, who were engaged in the like Deſign with him and his Aſſociates, to blow up our Sovereign and Parliament.

Countrym. I cann't but laugh at the Silline's of the Faction, Maſter, who make uſe of Seditious Addreſſes, Ballads, and Libels, inſtead of *Faux*'s Match, to blow up the Queen and Parliament, and particularly that call'd, *The Addreſs of the County of* Oxford, in the *Supplement* of *Friday* laſt, which flies directly in the Face of the Queen and both Houſes, approves that very Doctrine which they have condemn'd in *Sacheverell*'s Sermons, revives thoſe Queſtions and Diſputes of a very high Nature, inſtead of ſtudying to be quiet, and do their own Buſineſs, as Her Majeſty adviſed from the Throne in Her late moſt Gracious Speech. Certainly this muſt needs be with an Ill Intention, as Her Majeſty has expreſs'd it, ſince Addreſſes of this Nature do viſibly tend to foment, and not to heal, our Diviſion and Animoſities.

Obſ. I think nobody can doubt of that, *Roger*; but the Aſſurance of the Faction is beyond all the Preſidents of former Ages; they ſet up for Patriots of the Church, yet actually appear for thoſe who have done all they can to deſtroy it, and continually libel the beſt of our Biſhops and Clergy as Traitors and Falſe Brethren; they pretend mighty Zeal for the Prerogative, and yet audaciouſly attack one of its moſt Valuable Branches, which is the Power of calling and diſſolving Parliaments, and inſolently direct Her Majeſty to diſſolve the preſent Houſe of Commons.

tions, with whom She has Graciously expreſs'd ſo much Satisfaction: They pretend to be for the Proteſtant Succeſſion, yet actually declare againſt reſiſting of Tyranny, without which we could never have had it; and they ſet up for the Old Divine Hereditary and Indefeaſible Right of Lineal Succeſſion, which is utterly ſubverſive of that of Her Majeſty and the Houſe of *Hannover*, and contrary to the Laws by which they are eſtabliſh'd: They declare againſt Rebellious and Antimonarchical Principles, yet they expreſs no Abhorrence of thoſe Popiſh, Nonjurant, and Jacobite Mobs, that have been everywhere rais'd againſt both Queen and Parliament. Certainly there can be nothing in the World more Seditious, Diſloyal and Falſe, than that Reflection in the pretended *Oxfordſhire* Addreſs upon the Managers of the Houſe of Commons, of whom they maliciouſly inſinuate, *That 'tis eaſie to obſerve that the moſt open Patrons of Reſiſtance are equally Managers of Blaſphemy and Prophaneneſs:* Was there ever a more Virulent Libel againſt Her Majeſty's Adminiſtration? Does not this directly reproach Her Majeſty for advancing that Worthy Gentleman Sir *Thomas Parker*, who ſo nobly manag'd the Impeachment againſt *Sacheverell*, to be Lord Chief Juſtice of the Queen's Bench? This is exactly the Language of a Peſtilent and Seditious Libel, handed about, call'd *Riddles*, &c. wherein they reflect upon his Lordſhip, and all Her Majeſty's other Miniſters of Juſtice. With what Face can the Faction charge thoſe Noble Patriots, and Ornaments of the Law, as Managers of Blaſphemy and Prophaneneſs, and Shooters of their Poiſonous Arrows againſt God's Vicegerent, when 'tis prov'd beyond Poſſibility of Reply from the Books and Libels of the Faction, quoted in that call'd, *A New Catechiſm, with Dr.* Hicks's *39 Articles*, that no ſuch Blaſphemous and Profane Maxims, nor ſuch Traiterous Poſitions againſt Her Majeſty's Prerogative and Supremacy, were ever Publiſh'd by any Set of Men in the Nation, as by the Advocates of the High-Church, or Pretender's Faction.

Countrym. I am perfectly of your Opinion, Mr.; never was the Holy Scripture, and the Chriſtian Religion, ſo Blaſphem'd, as in the Inſtances charged upon the High-fliers in that Book; particularly their Advocate *Leſley* is charged, Page 1. with ſaying, that Contradiction is a certain Mark of Divine Revelation, *Socinian Controverſies diſcurs'd*, Dial. 1. p. 24. That the Scriptures are ſo contriv'd by God as to occaſion Hereſies, *Hicks*'s *Apol. Vindication of the Church of* England, p. 67. That Infinite Wiſdom has deviſ'd Fictions in Divinity for our Benefit and Advantage, *Hicks*'s *Two Treatiſes*, p. 69. That the Virginity of the Bleſſed Virgin was Artificially conceal'd in the Writings of the Prophets by God among other Things, leſt Satan coming to the Knowledge of 'em, ſhould endeavour to prevent them, or enervate their Certainty or Demonſtration; *Hicks*'s *Apol. Vindication of the Church of* England, *p.* 63. In my Opinion, Mr. Satan himſelf could never have ſaid any Thing more Falſe and Blaſphemous than this Sentence, *For the Virgins conceiving of our Saviour is plainly foretold, Iſaiah* 7. 14. and this very Place is referr'd to by St. *Matth.* Chap. 1. 23. 'Twould ſeem *Sacheverell* is not the only High-flier that ignorantly, or maliciouſly, perverts Scripture. Bleſs me! Mr. how are the People bewitch'd to follow ſuch Blaſphemous and Ignorant Leaders? It fills me with Horror to think on't, or to hear that any Man pretending to be a Divine ſhould Blaſphemouſly inſinuate it to be in the Power of the Devil, to prevent or obſtruct the fulfilling of God's Decrees; yet the Faction take no Notice in their Addreſſes of thoſe Tremendous Blaſphemies of their own Leaders; but I muſt adjourn this Subject to another Time. Here are Letters from ſeveral Parts of the Country which obſerve that the Faction, who made Illuminations and Bonfires everywhere upon *Sacheverell*'s coming off ſo eaſily, were exceedingly mortify'd, and ſtruck dumb, as well as their Bells, when the News of the Duke of *Marlborough*'s paſſing the Lines arriv'd; and particularly at *Cullumpton* in *Devon*, though *Exeter*, *Tiverton*, *Bradminch*, &c. ſhew'd them a better Example: And here's another from *Barnſtaple*, Maſter, that a Worthy Magiſtrate took your *Obſervator* from a Poor Widow Woman, who ſells Ale and Coffee in that Town, and without her Conſent or Knowledge burnt it, and refuſes to renew her Licence except ſhe promiſe not to take it in any more: Her Friends deſire your Advice what ſhe ſhould do in that Matter.

Obſ. Let her Friends get an *Affidavit* of the Facts, and make Application to any other Two Juſtices, and if they refuſe her a Licence upon that Head, any Attorney will tell them how to make Application to the General Seſſions, according to the 15 *Car.* 2. *Cap.* 11. *Sect.* 15. His Worſhip has no Power to demand any other Qualifications for a Licence than what the Statute enjoins; if they think fit to do this, and let me hear more of his Behaviour, they ſhall have further Advice.

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